THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Yes Sir. The Indian Medical Association has declared all its centers across the country as Smoke Free Zone with effect from June 2005 and has appealed all the doctors to give up smoking.

(d) The Government vide notification dated 25.02.2004 has banned smoking in public places, including hospitals, with effect from 1st May 2004.

Opening more hospitals

†1388. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is an acute shortage of hospitals in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government have set any target for opening more hospitals during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(d) by when the work of opening these new hospitals would be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) Health being a State subject under the Constitution of India, it is for the State Governments to open new hospitals in the States keeping in view their priorities and availability of resources.

However, as per available statistics, as on 1.1.2004, there are 5479 Allopathic Hospitals (including Community Health Centres) with total number of bed capacity of 3,80,993. Besides, there are allopathic hospitals in the private sector and large number of hospitals belonging to alternative system of medicines funtioning in the country.

Further, under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY) launched in 2003, it is proposed to set up one AIIMS like institution each in the States of Bihar (Patna), Chhattisgarh (Raipur),

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Madhya Pradesh, (Bhopal), Orissa (Bhubaneshwar), Rajasthan (Jodhpur) and Uttaranchal (Rishikesh). Necessary clearances are being Rajasthan (Jodhpur) and Uttaranchal (Rishikesh). Necessary clearances are being obtained for implementation of the PMSSY Scheme. Pending the clearance, start-up activities like construction of boundary wall, the process for selection of Project Consultant for providing comprehensive consultancy services and selection of architectural concept/designs for AIIMS like institution have been taken up.

Recognition to foreign medical degree

1389. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA:
SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Medical Council of India recognises degrees from China University (Mainland China) for the equivalent of M.B.B.S;

(b) if so, the details of the view of the M.C.I. in this regard;

(c) whether Government will standardize all foreign degrees to help students who cannot afford medical education in India; and

(d) the steps propose to develop a clear cut policy in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) No, Sir. The degree from China University (Mainland China) is not recognised for equivalent of M.B.B.S. However, an Indian citizen possessing a primary medical qualification awarded by any medical institution outside India recognized for enrollment as medical practitioner in that country, shall be entitled to be enrolled on any Medical Register maintained by a State Medical Council or in the Indian Medical Register after he qualifies the screening test in India prescribed for such purpose, and such foreign medical qualification, after such person qualifies that said screening test, shall be deemed to be the recognized medical qualification in respect of that person.